Chapter Chairs meet a NEW Sierra Club

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

I was pleased to attend the 1st Annual Chapter Chairs assembly in San Francisco on May 2-4, 2013. Chapter chairs from across the nation (about 80% participation) met to converse with national staff. The purpose of this meeting was for chapter chairs to share their experiences, for national staff to present their programs, and for the chairs to query national staff. The 3-day agenda, plus a lot more documents pertinent to our assembly, will eventually be posted on Clubhouse; but I would like to give you some of my personal perspective.

Although there was some resistance to this meeting from chapter chairs when it was first announced, I believe the overwhelming response at the end of the 3-day assembly was positive, with almost all chairs wanting this to become a regular affair (most likely annual). The 3-day agenda, plus a lot more documents pertinent to our assembly, will eventually be posted on Clubhouse; but I would like to give you some of my personal perspective.

A new Sierra Club. This is a new Club, populated at the national headquarters with young and middle-aged staffers who have come to the Sierra Club with different working experiences. The press release at the time of the meeting was pleased to attend the 1st Annual Chapter Chairs assembly in San Francisco on May 2-4, 2013. Chapter chairs from across the nation (about 80% participation) met to converse with national staff. The purpose of this meeting was for chapter chairs to share their experiences, for national staff to present their programs, and for the chairs to query national staff. The 3-day agenda, plus a lot more documents pertinent to our assembly, will eventually be posted on Clubhouse; but I would like to give you some of my personal perspective.

Although there was some resistance to this meeting from chapter chairs when it was first announced, I believe the overwhelming response at the end of the 3-day assembly was positive, with almost all chairs wanting this to become a regular affair (most likely annual). The communication was truly both ways, with the Club’s national staff listening as much as speaking, with chapter leaders outspoken, and both sides seeking answers and solutions to the problems which beset them all.

Lake Tahoe protection: Hanging in the balance

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

For decades, development at Lake Tahoe has been governed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) under provisions of the federally commissioned Bi-State Compact between California and Nevada. In December 2012 TRPA formally approved a Revised Regional Plan (RPU), largely due to Nevada’s threat to pull out of the compact, which had been enacted in 2011 (SB 271).

Lawsuit challenges RPU. Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore filed a federal lawsuit on 2/11/2013 challenging that RPU. (See last Trails issue for details.) This lawsuit raises four major claims:

1. TRPA delegates project approval and review duties to local government, thus violating of the compact.
2. The RPU fails to establish and ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards for protection of the lake.
3. The RPU failed to make threshold findings regarding the direction of the compact.
4. The RPU failed to adequately analyze significant environmental impacts in violation of the compact.

The press release at the time of the lawsuit can be seen at Earth Justice’s website.

Lawsuit timeline. The lawsuit reached its first hurdle in April when TRPA filed a motion to dismiss. A hearing on this motion is scheduled for June. At that hearing, it is likely that the question of who pays for the administrative records which TRPA is assembling will be decided. Traditionally, public agencies party to lawsuits bear such costs; TRPA seems to fit the definition of a public agency.

Nevada repeals SB 271, enacts SB 229. Meanwhile, the political elements in Nevada were taking a hard look at SB 271 and finding it too harsh. A move in the legislature to repeal SB 271 was undertaken in earnest starting in February 2013. Due to the fact that TRPA had issued the RPU which Nevada desired, much of the need for SB 271 was removed.

With the push of several interests and with the constructive intent of several Nevada legislators, SB 229 – to repeal SB 271 – was enacted by both houses. The governor of Nevada signed SB 229 in early June. This legislation contains a poison pill, however, in that it requires that, unless California passes similar legislation by the end of 2013, the Nevada legislation will be voided.

Will SB 229 help the lake? While keeping Nevada in the compact is commendable, thus undoing a 2-year threat to the historic bi-state agreement, this new legislation does NOT guarantee that the lake will get the protection it needs. There are several reasons for this:

• Pending similar legislation in California, SB 229 institutionalizes at the state level the flawed RPU adopted in December 2012 by the TRPA. This plan puts forth new rules for Lake Tahoe.

IN THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam: David Thompson . . . 2
Summer Desert Trips . . . . . 3
Range of Light Group . . . . . 4-5
ROL Volunteers Needed . . . . . 5
Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear . . . . . 6
Conservation Briefs . . . . . 6
Warring Over Wildlife . . . . . 6
Utah Governor Says NO . . . . . 6
Threats to NV Wildlife Species . . . . . 6
Nevada Sage Grouse . . . . . 7
Can Devil’s Hole Pupfish Survive? . . . 7
Great Basin Group . . . . . 8-9
Great Basin Peak Section News . . . . . 8
2nd Annual Italian Night for Kids . . . . . 8
Gusty Day on Bunker Hill . . . . . 9
S. Nevada Group . . . . . . . 10-11
S. Nevada Group Outings . . . . . 11
Bookshelf: On Extinction . . . . . 11
Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings . . . . . 12

Devil’s Hole pupfish: Can they survive?

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

Imagine that you are a fish living in a large lake or river thousands of years ago. Now imagine that your lake and river start to shrink, shrivel, and finally disappear leaving you in a limestone cavern filled with warm water from a huge, underground aquifer.

Something like this did happen over thousands of years and the fishes’ descendents today live in that water-filled, limestone cavern called Devil’s Hole in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. It is believed that the Devil’s Hole pupfish (Cyprinodon diabolis) lives in the most restricted habitat of any vertebrate species. Devil’s Hole sits in a rock chasm 60 feet deep that is a window into a vast, underground water system connected to the regional aquifer.

People have dived into the warm water depths of Devil’s Hole to more than 400 feet -- and still could not see a bottom to the cavern. Devil’s Hole is visible from a viewing platform where visitors can see the few square feet of aquifer exposed to the surface.

The pupfish mostly live in the upper 20 feet of the water-filled cavern, but it is a shallow rock shelf on which they depend for food and spawning habitat. The pupfish are adapted to their harsh environment, but lately they’ve been struggling -- due to human-caused changes, but perhaps more recently due to other factors, too. At the latest count, the pupfish spring adult population was counted at just 35 individual fish, down from counts of 200 individuals common before 1994; the population of just 38
## Toiyabe Chapter Directory

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>David von Seggern*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net">vonseg1@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
<td>David Hornbeck*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com">DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Christa Velasquez*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christa_sg@yahoo.com">christa_sg@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Laurel Ames*</td>
<td>530-541-5752, <a href="mailto:laurelil@watershednetwork.org">laurelil@watershednetwork.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Ann Brauser*</td>
<td>702-879-3376, <a href="mailto:bluepumpine@gmail.com">bluepumpine@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Erik Holland*</td>
<td>775-322-3852, <a href="mailto:erikreno@att.net">erikreno@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Jean Steoss*</td>
<td>775-322-5326, <a href="mailto:jsteeos@aol.com">jsteeos@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Sharon Marie Wilcox</td>
<td>775-852-5075, <a href="mailto:kawahew@gmail.com">kawahew@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Tina Nappe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tnappe@nvbell.net">tnappe@nvbell.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wildlifecochair@nvbell.net">wildlifecochair@nvbell.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Christa Velasquez*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christa_sg@yahoo.com">christa_sg@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Laurel Ames*</td>
<td>530-541-5752, <a href="mailto:laurelil@watershednetwork.org">laurelil@watershednetwork.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Ann Brauser*</td>
<td>702-879-3376, <a href="mailto:bluepumpine@gmail.com">bluepumpine@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Erik Holland*</td>
<td>775-322-3852, <a href="mailto:erikreno@att.net">erikreno@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Jean Steoss*</td>
<td>775-322-5326, <a href="mailto:jsteeos@aol.com">jsteeos@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Sharon Marie Wilcox</td>
<td>775-852-5075, <a href="mailto:kawahew@gmail.com">kawahew@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Tina Nappe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tnappe@nvbell.net">tnappe@nvbell.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wildlifecochair@nvbell.net">wildlifecochair@nvbell.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GROUP CHAIRS (DELEGATES TO THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin Group</td>
<td>David von Seggern*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net">vonseg1@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of Light Group</td>
<td>Malcolm Clark</td>
<td>760-924-5639, <a href="mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com">wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Group</td>
<td>Taj Aitken</td>
<td>702-682-9361, <a href="mailto:tajaitlany@aol.com">tajaitlany@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tahoe Area Group</td>
<td>Bob Anderson</td>
<td>775-586-8740, <a href="mailto:bob-a@sbcglobal.net">bob-a@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Wilderness &amp; Wildlands</td>
<td>Marge Sill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msill@juno.com">msill@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Ed. Chair</td>
<td>Jean Dillingham</td>
<td>760-648-7109, <a href="mailto:dillinghamjean@gmail.com">dillinghamjean@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Task Force Chair</td>
<td>Joe Johnson</td>
<td>775-348-7192, <a href="mailto:j035@juno.com">j035@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbyist</td>
<td>Joe Johnson</td>
<td>775-348-7192, <a href="mailto:j035@juno.com">j035@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>Sharon M. Wilcox</td>
<td>775-852-5075, <a href="mailto:kawahew@gmail.com">kawahew@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining Comm. Co-Chair</td>
<td>Glenn Miller</td>
<td>775-846-4516, <a href="mailto:gsmiller@unr.edu">gsmiller@unr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining Comm. Co-Chair</td>
<td>Malcolm Clark</td>
<td>760-924-5639, <a href="mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com">wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining Comm. Co-Chair</td>
<td>Glenn Miller</td>
<td>775-846-4516, <a href="mailto:gsmiller@unr.edu">gsmiller@unr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks Chair</td>
<td>Marge Sill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msill@juno.com">msill@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Public Rel. Chair</td>
<td>Launce Rak*</td>
<td>702-451-9365, <a href="mailto:launearke@gmail.com">launearke@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Co-Chair</td>
<td>Taj Aitlyn</td>
<td>702-682-7363, <a href="mailto:taiaitlyn@aol.com">taiaitlyn@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Co-Chair</td>
<td>Erik Holland*</td>
<td>775-322-3852, <a href="mailto:erikreno@att.net">erikreno@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Compliance Officer</td>
<td>Pete Sterraza</td>
<td>775-324-7385, <a href="mailto:psterraza@yahoo.com">psterraza@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Lands Chair</td>
<td>Rose Strickland</td>
<td>775-329-6188, <a href="mailto:rosestrickland@sbcglobal.net">rosestrickland@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Pipeline Task Force Chair</td>
<td>David von Seggern*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vonselg1@sbcglobal.net">vonselg1@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Field Organizer</td>
<td>Rob Smith</td>
<td>602-254-8362, <a href="mailto:rosmith@sbcglobal.net">rosmith@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Club Council Delegate</td>
<td>Jane Feldman*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosmith@sbcglobal.net">rosmith@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Nevada Resilient</td>
<td>Sarah Matsumoto</td>
<td>415-977-5579, <a href="mailto:sarah@sierranews.org">sarah@sierranews.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Campaign</td>
<td>Brian Padie</td>
<td>702-265-2644, <a href="mailto:brianfado@sbcglobal.net">brianfado@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Student Coalition</td>
<td>Glenn Miller</td>
<td>775-786-0462, <a href="mailto:gsmiller@unr.edu">gsmiller@unr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Toiyabe Trails

**Toiyabe Trails: Serving Nevada & California's E. Sierra**

Toiyabe Trails is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; foster@sierranews.org)

**Assoc. Editor – Kathy Money** (760-938-2050). Kathy usually does one issue every year.

**Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month’s issue:** December 1 for January-February; March 1 for April-May; June 1 for July-August; September 1 for October-November-December.

**Submissions** – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don’t have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The Toiyabe Trails reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel. **Subscriptions** – Toiyabe Trails is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is $12 per year. To subscribe, send check for $12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to Toiyabe Trails Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. Contact Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

**Change of address – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <address.changes@sierraclub.org>.**

**Membership information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of Toiyabe Trails. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

**Other Sierra Club information.** Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5663). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

---

### In Memoriam

**David Thompson, M.D.**

David was Toiyabe Chapter Chair during the 1960s; he died on April 17, just one day after his 90th birthday celebration. He joined the Club in 1958 and was one of the first members of our chapter. He loved nature, mountain climbing, hiking, skiing, and sailing.

Before a formal Sierra Club policy was established, David – who was an expert on mountain medicine – trained many of us on basic leadership. He emphasized that the leader was responsible for the well-being of each trip member and taught us what to do in an emergency. He emphasized such simple rules as drinking enough water and rest when tired or not feeling well. Because of David’s teaching, we became better leaders.

The Toiyabe Chapter thanks you, David; for everything you did.

---

### Threats to NV Species... continued from page 6

all, about 70% of the surface of the Earth is covered with some form of it. But it is now abundantly clear that with overpopulation, misplaced development, and impacts from human alterations to climate, usable water is indeed becoming scarce.

One only has to look as far as the desert Southwest and the Colorado River Basin to gauge the seriousness of the situation. The already over-appropriated Colorado River has been named the “most endangered river in America,” and a recent government report predicts further declines in flow ranging from 10 to 30%. This threatens wildlife habitat, cities, and agriculture that depend on it.

One such city is Las Vegas, which has experienced exponential growth during the past two decades. For anyone familiar with basic biological principles (or who has good old common sense), it is clear that such growth is unsustainable in the driest desert in North America. Unfortunately greed, speculation, and focus on short term profits have trumped these principles. Now the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is pursuing plans to mine even more ground water – 27.4 BILLION gallons annually – left from the last ice age. It would be piped almost 300 miles to the Las Vegas Valley to allow for more unsustainable growth and as a hedge against future reduced flows in the Colorado River.

Ethics aside, the pragmatic impacts of this proposal to both the human and natural worlds would be catastrophic at best. The remainder of this article will focus on the wildlife that will be decimated.

### Aquatic Species

Let’s start with the smallest and most vulnerable -- the spring snails. These creatures are remnants of the Pleistocene Era, when what are now valleys of the Great Basin were lakes and inter-connected wetlands. As climate and the landscape became drier, these connections were broken, and many species likely went extinct. Those that didn’t were stranded, often at just one or two springs in their former range. There are at least 25 species of spring snail threatened by the ground water project.

---

Please see Threats to NV Species, page 11.
FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR . . . continued from page 1

The CNRCC Desert Committee’s purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert. All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, Adventuring in the California Desert, by Lynne Foster.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4055).

JULY 4-7 (THU-SUN)
BLACK ROCK DESERT
ON JULY 4 WEEKEND
This will be a very busy weekend in Black Rock. No specific activities planned at this writing, but it’s a shame to waste such a long weekend. Probably it’ll be a car camp. Possible amateur radio class on Sunday! Info: after 6:15, call David Book (775-843-6443). Leader very familiar with area and can find plenty to do up there. Sorry, no RVs or trailers.

JULY 26-29 (FRI-MON)
E. NEVADA WILDERNESS SERVICE
ON JULY 26 WEEKEND
We’ve worked in Mt. Grafton Wilderness south of Ely, Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park, and Becky Peak Wilderness in Scell Creek Range N of Ely. Where will it be this time? Sign up and find out. We do know it will be useful, enjoyable, hard work for wilderness, with pleasing camaraderie in a wild, scenic area. Central commodity offered for usual exorbitant fee. Contact Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierracubl.org). CNRCC Wilderness Committee

SEP 14-15 (SAT-SUN)
INDIAN WELLS CANYON SERVICE & HIKE
Indian Wells Canyon, N of Ridgecrest and adjacent to Owens Peak Wilderness, has been impacted by erosion and by illegal ORV trespass. On Saturday, assist BLM Wilderness Resource Specialist Marty Dickens putting up barriers, concealing illegal routes, and placing signs. If work completed adequately, then Saturday there’ll be a hike up into wilderness and perhaps to Owens Peak itself. Pondora forest and chaparral should show some successful rediversion early fall. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670). Contact: Tom Budlong (TomBudlong@roadrunner.com, 310-476-1731). CNRCC Desert Committee

SEP 14-15 (SAT-SUN)
BRISTLECONE PINES
Come with us to beautiful White Mtns to camp, hike, just relax. On Saturday, hike Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on mod. 5 mi interpretive trail, followed by picnic lunch and short optional hike to nearby old mining cabin. Back at camp, enjoy Happy Hour, potluck feast, campfire, Sunday, pack up and head home. Group-size strictly limited. Leader: Lygea Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

SEP 27-29 (FRI-SUN)
SERVICE & HIKING IN CARRIZO PLAINS
An opportunity to visit and assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Friday, optional scenic hike high in Caliente Mountains. Saturday, join other volunteers in doing trail maintenance for National Public Lands Day. On Sunday, tour some historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in Monument. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCT 12-13 (SAT-SUN)
EXPLORE & SERVE IN CARRIZO PLAINS
This weekend is part of a continuing project to aid many species of unburied antelope in Carrizo Plain National Monument. Saturday, remove or modify several sections of fence which are in the antelopes’ way. Sunday, choice of groups, either hike in Caliente Range or tour popular viewing areas in plains. An opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leaders: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCT 26-27 (SAT-SUN)
GHOST TOWN EXTRA VAGANZA
Spend Halloween weekend with ghosts of California’s colorful past. Primitive camp at historic ghost town of Ballarat in ecorest landscape near Death Valley. Saturday, challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Return to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by midnight visit to Ballarat’s graveyard. Sunday, a quick visit to infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group-size strictly limited. Leader: Lygea Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

ROL HIGHWAY CLEANUP CHAIR NEEDED . . . continued from page 5

(3) Make any required brief reports to CalTran. John Walters has done this for over a decade (thanks John!) but has now retired from this job. This can be quite a fun activity. People never know what they might find! For a description, see the writeup for the next cleanup on these ROL pages.

What can you do. For more information or to volunteer, contact rangeofflight. sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639.

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

Range of Light Outings continued from page 5

SEPTEMBER 8 (SUNDAY)

SEPTEMBER 15 (SUNDAY)
Hall Natural Area Reserve bordering Yosemite. Magnificent glacial lakes basin in shadow of Mt. Conness. Mod. 5 mi RT on and off trail. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8:45a, Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road. Dogs limited. Leaders: Maurica (760-932-7175 maurica_and@yahoo.com), Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

SEPTEMBER 22 (SUNDAY)
Lundy Canyon fall colors. Easy but rocky trail hike of about 4 mi RT along Mill Creek to lunch at waterfalls. Dogs limited. Meet 9a, ML Union Bank or 9:45a, trailhead.

Leaders: Maurica (760-932-7175, maurica_and@yahoo.com), Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

SEPTEMBER 29 (SUNDAY)
Morgan Pass to Morgan Lakes. About 8mi RT, 800 ft gain to 11,000+ ft. Start from Mosquito Flats parking area, follow Morgan Pass trail past a series of lakes and meadows in Little Lakes Valley, up Morgan Pass and down to Upper Morgan Lake for spectacular views. Bring your camera. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Dogs OK. Leaders: Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

TOIYABE TRAILS JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2013 3
Range of Light Group

Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK
wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com

ExCom. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6 pm, Malcolm Clark’s home.

Program Meetings. In March, Brigitte Berman brought fossils to illustrate her presentation, "Ichthyosaurus Fossils in Nevada."

In April, Lesley Bruns hosted a pre-premiere showing of Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s new video, followed by Q&A.

During May, Joanne Hihn gave a photographic summary of the Hihn’s hikes since moving here in 2012, as well as an overview of ROL Group summer ROLG outings.

Outreach. Shalle Genevieve and Malcolm Clark staffed an ROL Group Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET QUARTERLY (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome, but please confirm date, place and time, as meeting date may change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

Any action items should be submitted to the chair (Malcolm Clark) in time for consideration before the meeting by ExCom members. On items requiring a vote, please include text of proposed resolution (subject to revision by ExCom).

Normally, ExCom acts on proposals in between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) makes waiting to next ExCom meeting impossible. Submissions or more information: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

Range of Light Group

OFFICERS

Chair Malcolm Clark 760-924-5639
Vice Chair Sandy Burnside* kburnside@aol.com
Secretary Lesley Bruns lesleybrunsflight@gmail.com
Treasurer Mary Ann Dunigan 760-924-5942
At Large Mike Shore* mary.shore@gte.net
At Large Jean Dillingham* 760-648-7109
At Large Donna Lee 760-933-9905
At Large Maurice Anderson 760-925-3042
At Large Lesley Bruns lasleybrunsflight@gmail.com
At Large Sandy Bruns kburnside@aol.com
Chapter Del. Jean Dillingham 760-648-7109
Editor Lynne Footer 760-387-2634
History John Walter 760-934-7974
Hospitality Wilma Wheeler 760-934-7974
LORP Mark Bagley 760-973-5236
Membership Shalle Genevieve 760-914-9668
Outings Dick Hill dhill@skimmore.org
Co-Chairs Joanne Hihn jphotos73@gmail.com
Programs Mary Shore mary.shore@gte.net
Publicity Rosemary Jarrett jarrett@skimmore.com
Webmaster Jo Bacon jbacmlo2@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus Owen Maley 760-914-9511

* Using ExCom member

Range of Light Group on Facebook!

TO CHECK US OUT, search “Range of Light Group” on Facebook and “Like” us. (Be sure to include “Group.”) Check Facebook for updates for group outings, group events, and area conservation news.

ROL Group Website

<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>

&

Chapter website

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

OL Group News

ThURSDAy evENINg outTINgS

Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes. Back before dark. Emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues etc., depending on leader’s interests. All skill levels welcome, including beginners. Meet 5:30p Union Bank. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen, camera. Wear substantial shoes or boots; dress in layers. Contact leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.

JULY 4 (THURSDAY)

NO SCHEDULED OUTING.

JULY 11 (THURSDAY)

McGee Canyon to Horsetail Falls evening stroll. About 3 mi RT, 500 ft gain at mellow pace. Leaders: Sandy & Keith (760-935-4004, kburnsides@aol.com).

JULY 16 (THURSDAY)

Barbecue Outing.

JULY 18 (THURSDAY)

McLeod Lake. Leader: Sally (760-218-5504) session for discussion of the Region 5 Bio-regional assessment.

• Discussions are progressing well with the Forest Service on a ROL Group proposal to restore Blue Diamond signs marking cross-country ski routes in the Mammoth area.

mammotH & Monte CristO mines.

Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skimmore.edu).

August 20 (Thursday)

Barbecue Outing.

August 22 (Thursday)

Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skimmore.edu).

September 5 (Tuesday)

Crystal Lake. Trail overlooks Lake Basin, passes through beautiful forested area.

See please ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

0083, sgs44d@gmail.com), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

JULY 25 (THURSDAY)

Twin Lakes Ditch. About 1.5 mi, level, easy. Trace ditch that delivered water to run Mammoth Gold Mill. Leaders: Mary & Mike (805-217-5563, Mary.Shore@gte.net).

August 1 (THURSDAY)

TBA. Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skimmore.edu).

August 8 (THURSDAY)

Heart Lake (tentative). About 2+ mi RT, 550 ft gain, from Coldwater Campground trailhead. Leader: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

August 15 (THURSDAY)

Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skimmore.edu).

August 20 (Thursday)

Barbecue Outing.

August 22 (Thursday)

Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skimmore.edu).

Thank you for looking at the side bar for the range of light group monthly meetings.

Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks, please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable table setting. For summer outdoor potlucks, bring a chair, drinks, and something to grill. All dogs must be on leash in area of outdoor potlucks. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip potluck and come only for program. See ROL Calendar for contact info.

Your choice! BBQs ready at 6p. See ROL Calendar for directions and contact info.

See Sept 17 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 615 pm Crowley Lake Community Center Program: 7 pm

“Water Issues in the Owens Valley”

Mark Bagley will speak about past and present activities of Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee. Mark has worked on theses issues for 25 years. He is executive Director of Owens Valley Committee.

*Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (mary.shore@gte.net).

We always need fresh ideas!
**Outdoor Potluck & BBQ, Hayden Cabin Museum, Mammoth Lakes.** Arrive early to independently hike/walk in many directions from the Cabin – down Mammoth Creek, out the bike path to “inspiration point” around the hills just up the road. Arrive before 6p to visit Museum. BBQ grill ready by 6p. Please bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-disposable place setting, drinks. All dogs need to be on leash in area of gathering. More: Mary K (760-934-0355 mkp@npgcable.com) or Shalle (760-934-9668 marshalle@earthlink.net).

**July 17 (Wednesday)**

Highway Cleanup. This is the Wednesday after our third Tuesday monthly group meeting. Meet at the Crestview rest area, about 5 miles north of town at 8 am. We provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags – along with picker-uppers and gloves. We usually finish around 10:30 am. A large group showed up at our May 22nd cleanup and we were finished around 10 am. Who will find the most EXOTIC, UNUSUAL or OUTRAGEOUS trash during this summer’s Range of Light Group highway cleanups? Find out when you join group members in the Mammoth area to clean “our” section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth.

**July 20 (Tuesday)**

Outdoor Potluck & BBQ, Rock Creek Lake Campground Day Use Area. Directions: Hwy 95 to turnout at Tom’s Place marked “Crawley Lake Drive/Rock Creek Lake.” Head on Rock Creek Road to just past Rock Creek Lake Resort/store/restaur-ant/Pie-in-the-Sky, turn left at Rock Creek Lake Campground. Follow road to end, about 0.6 miles, see day use area on right. We’ll be at one of the tables/fire pit areas near road. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-dispo- sable place setting, drinks. Come early for optional activities – kayaking, hiking, fishing, photography, your choice. BBQ ready by 6p. All dogs need to be on leash in area of gathering. More: Mary K (760-934-0355 mkp@npgcable.com) or Shalle (760-934-9668 marshalle@earthlink.net).

**September 17 (Tuesday)**

Program Meeting, Potluck, & Social, Crowley Lake Community Center, Crowley Lake. Potluck and Social: 6:15p. Please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable place setting. Program: 7p. Mark Bagley will speak about past and present activities of Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee in addressing issues in the Valley. Hear about the challenges and successes. Mark has been involved with these issues for 25 years and has been Sierra Club Owens Valley Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) representative for Owens Valley Committee since 1997. He is currently also Executive Director of Owens Valley Committee. More info: Mary (805-217-5563).

**September 18 (Wednesday)**

Highway Cleanup. This will be our third and final highway cleanup of the year. Info: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639 or Rangeflight@gmail.com). You can also check our web site or go to Range of Light Group on Facebook.

**Volunteers Needed**

Group Conservation Chair or Co-Chairs

IS ROL GROUP “EXPLORING” and “enjoying,” but not always “protecting” as it should. The idea of having a Conservation Chair our Conservation Committee is finding it nearly impossible to protect our spec-trum and unique local environment. A headless committee is at a serious disadvantage in addressing the conserv-ation and environmental issues that are constantly arising.

Suggested duties for Conservation Chair (or Conservation Co-chairs) include:

- Maintaining relations with BLM, the Inyo National Forest, and various co-operating groups such as the Bodie Partnership Coalition and the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group.
- Commenting on scoping proposals, environmental assessments and the like (see letter from the chair in this issue).
- Facilitating conservation work days and projects.
- Convening and chairing meetings of our Conservation Committee.

The Conservation Chair works with the Conservation Committee which ideally meets monthly or bi-monthly as needed to assess current issues, divide responsi-bility for response, and forward proposals for suggested action to the ECoM for approval.

Conservation Committee members also needed. Perhaps you’d like to be involved in our conservation work, but can’t take on the responsibility of being Chair? Instead, we could consider being on our Conservation Committee and working on a particular issue in our area – for example, renewable energy proposals, sage grouse or other endangered species, OHV problems, etc.

How to join? For more info on Range of Light Group’s conservation activities, contact rangeflight.sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639. We need “protectors” – please volunteer!
Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Gold Butte Bill Introduced. Just before the Memorial Day recess, Senator Reid introduced the 348,515-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area bill to ensure preservation of the scenic, environmental, and cultural values of this important place. The bill includes designation of over 129,000 acres of wilderness in the National Conservation Area and approximately 92,000 acres of wilderness in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Gold Butte has long been a top priority for conservation groups in Nevada, including the Sierra Club. For a copy of the bill and a map, please e-mail msill@juno.com.

50th anniversaries of Wilderness and Civil Rights Acts. The following proclamation was introduced in the 2013 session of the Nevada legislature by Senators Aaron Ford and Pat Spearman to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and Please see 50th ANNIVERSARIES, page 12.

Warring over wildlife: Nevada Legislature ends

BY TINA NAPPE

“WILDLIFE IS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE,” a former Director of Nevada Department of Wildlife once stated. Certainly there is always a tug of differing philosophies. This session there were: bilson trapping, predation management, black bears, sage grouse, invasive species, and falconry.

AB345. Introduced to move some of the $400,000 earmarked for predator control (based on a $3 hunt application fee) to sage grouse habitat, the bill ended up tightening qualifications for predator management projects. Raven control was one of the rationales for leaving predator control as is.

SB82. Introduced to designate the black bear as a protected species and ended up being a resolution to urge continued discussion between the Wildlife Commission and Humane Groups.

SB213. Initially required trap visitation every 24 hours, trap identification, and placing a visible flag on traps. The final bill required trap identification and more frequent visitation hours in urban areas, as developed by the Wildlife Commission.

SJ7. This resolution to incorporate the right to hunt into the constitution was defeated.

AB168. Replaces one farmer or sportsmen on Nevada’s 17 County Advisory Board to Manage wildlife with a member from the general public.

SB 213. For the first time, NDW will be able to provide penalties for feeding big game, especially bears.

AB 461. Nevada will be the first state to have a legislated program to address the decline of sage grouse. Information on this program can be found at <http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/>. You can also contact me at tinanappe@gmail.com.

Finally, some general comments. The legislature adjourned again without investing significant public dollars in the wildlife program. Wildlife belongs to the people, but sportsmen continue provide the basic match funds to access federal funds. A little less than $500,000 in general funds is contributed to NWD’s Biodiversity Program. A request to the Governor, for instance, to provide general funds to address nuisance black bears was denied. The NWD budget is approximately $31,000,000. Without the reliable contribution of sportsmen, NWD would have virtually no resources for wildlife.

Support our efforts to Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear

To support our campaign to Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear, we are using small water vials* as pledge tokens and reminders. By buying this water vial, you will be pledging to help with our campaign to Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear. Keep and display the vial as a reminder of your commitment to preserve the beauty of Lake Tahoe for this and future generations.

Your contribution will enable us to:

• continue our legal action to stop the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency from putting the faulty revised regional plan into action. The plan fails to protect Lake Tahoe for present and future generations.

• catalyze public opinion to support preservation of the lake.

Your pledge will bring more voices to the argument that the faulty revised plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency puts protecting the lake second to development. This is a significant departure from past practice under the bi-state compact which was intended to protect Lake Tahoe from degradation due to overdevelopment. (See Page 1 article in this issue of the Trails for details.)

Clip or copy the order blank below and send your pledge check of $10 each for as many water vials as you want. Your water vial(s) will be delivered via USPS soon. Pass copies of this order blank on to others if possible.

* The vials are unbreakable plastic, about 2 inches high, and hold a fraction of an ounce of Lake Tahoe water, with an attached card to remind you of our campaign.

WATER ISSUES INTENSE THREATS TO NEVADA SPECIES (PART I)

BY ROB MROWKA

Water & Growth

Life is impossible without water. Mother Earth’s life-blood nourishes all that require it. Up until recently, it seemed that there was plenty of water to go around — after Please see THREATS TO NV SPECIES, page 2.

Water issues intensify threats to Nevada species (Part I)

BY ROB MROWKA

Water & Growth

Life is impossible without water. Mother Earth’s life-blood nourishes all that require it. Up until recently, it seemed that there was plenty of water to go around — after Please see THREATS TO NV SPECIES, page 2.

LAKESHAKE PROTECTION

continued from page 6

California, SB 229 institutionalizes at the state level the flawed RPU adopted in December 2012 by the TRPA. This plan puts forth new rules for Lake Tahoe that seriously reduce protections for the treasured mountain lake.

• SB 229 includes no new rules that might protect the lake. The most disconcerting part of the RPU is that it shifts authority over future development decisions to local jurisdictions. Our long experience with local jurisdictions on planning and development issues is that they are almost always swayed by the promise of an increased tax base.

• SB 229 also allows the towns and counties to adopt weakened pollution controls that do not meet the minimum environmental requirements established by TRPA.

• Finally, the plan allows for increased development while important standards for environmental quality around the lake are yet unmet.

Contact the Sierras Club to get to heaven is a good pair of boots.

— Shelton Johnson
DEVL’S HOLE PUPFISH: CAN THEY SURVIVE? . . .

continued from page 1

adult fish occurred in 2006 after a flood washed traps used for research into the pool killing many pupfish. Death Valley National Park has made extensive upgrades to its research and monitoring infrastructure of Devil’s Hole to help prevent another human-caused catastrophe from occurring. The recent decline, however, doesn’t have a single, identifiable cause, according to Jeffrey Goldstein, whose job with the National Park is to see that the fish survive and ultimately thrive. Devil’s Hole pupfish have been threatened with extermination before. In the mid-20th century agricultural pumping was rapidly draining the aquifer. The dropping water table exposed part of the rock shelf in the pool known to be critical to the pupfish. A court battle in the early 1970s ultimately went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which limited pumping to keep the water level in Devil’s Hole above the rock shelf. Since then, pupfish populations were relatively stable although the water level in Devil’s Hole never recovered to pre-pumping levels and remains one foot lower than in 1960. And today pumping for agriculture continues north and west, in Amargosa Valley, and for residential and agricultural use in Pahrump, NV, about 14 miles to the southeast.

Devil’s Hole pupfish live in water that averages 92.3°F (33.5°C). Available oxygen is far less than most fish species can tolerate. Their food supply is very limited in the winter. Nevertheless, they have persisted for at least 10,000 years in their isolated, water-deprived caves. What now is causing their decline isn’t well understood.

The NPS implemented a plan for Devil’s Hole developed in 2009: the

Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring Plan (LTEMP for short). The plan calls for a holistic approach to ecosystem monitoring and offers extensive peer-reviews (14 outside experts from the USGS and academia and four internal NPS reviews). LTEMP collects data on eight factors, including water temperature (it’s rising), nutrients (they’re changing), water level (it’s never returned to pre-pumping levels), water quality, and the Devil’s Hole pupfish themselves. The natural food available to the fish is believed to be inadequate, so the NPS supplementally feeds the fish to augment the natural food supply at critical times. Events stress the pupfish.

Goldstein reported at the 2013 Devil’s Hole Conference in Death Valley that global climate change may be increasing the temperatures of the water in Devil’s Hole. Temperature measurements between 2009 and 2013 show increases in both summer and winter water temperatures that may reflect increasing air temperatures. Likewise, algae and invertebrates that help make up the ecosystem of Devil’s Hole are shifting.

In 2012 and early 2013 there was a string of natural disturbances — six large, distant earthquakes and a flood. Seismic waves from earthquakes as far away as Mexico or Alaska cause large, temporary water fluctuations in Devil’s Hole. Water levels rise sending waves over the shallow shelf and then drain rapidly into the hole with rushing water running over the shallow shelf. The cycle repeats several times. You can see videos of the effects of the Mexico earthquake on Devil’s Hole at <http://youtu.be/3khAznw59zY>.

Likewise, flash floods send water cascading into Devil’s Hole from intense, local thunderstorms like those which occurred in early August 2012. It is possible that these events — especially the earthquakes that occurred in late March and early April 2012 could have negatively affected spring spawning of the pupfish, says Goldstein.

Questions remain about the long-term causes of the pupfish decline. Is it a change in the ecosystem function? Is it global climate change or lower water levels? Is it a shift in the critters that make up the community structure? NPS biologist Goldstein, in response to a question, expressed a guarded opinion that the pupfish will rebound from this historic low count. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that he’s right.

DEVIL’S HOLE
Death Valley National Park

FACTS
Average Temperature: 92.3°F
Dissolved Oxygen: 2.5-3.0 mg/l
Depth: Divers have gone down 436 ft; cavern continues deeper
Elevation: 2358 feet above mean sea level
Environment: Limestone fracture cave exposed at the surface

Devil’s Hole pupfish: most restricted habitat of a vertebrate species; pupfish found to 66 feet; but usually above 20 feet; shallow shelf essential for food & spawning habitat

Location: Amargosa Valley, Nye County, Nevada
Features: Devil’s Hole is part of the Ash Meadows Complex — an extensive wetland composed of large and small springs. Ash Meadows was named for its Velvet Ash Trees (Fraxinus velutina).

Website: <http://deva.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/devils-hole.htm>

DEVL’S HOLE
Death Valley National Park

DESIGNATIONS
In 1952, Devil’s Hole was added to then-Death Valley National Monument. (Death Valley became a National Park in 1994.) In 1984, the surrounding large springs and wetlands in Amargosa Valley became the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. See <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows/>

LOCATION
How to get to Devil’s Hole. Access is 8.1 miles north of Death Valley Junction, CA. From NV 373 turn east on Spring Meadows Rd. Drive 5.2 miles (good gravel road) to turn-off to Ash Meadows Nat Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. (Check here for information.) From Visitor Center continue 0.6 mi on Spring Meadows Rd, then 1.7 mi on Devil’s Hole Rd.

The earth has music for those who listen.
— George Santayana

Nevada sage grouse takes center stage

BY TINA NAPPE

“NEVADA IS KNOWN AS THE Sagebrush State; restoration and maintenance of the sagebrush ecosystem is essential to wildlife, watersheds, biodiversity and productivity,” states AB 461, Governor Sandoval’s bill to “Restore the Sagebrush Ecosystem.” Nevada became the first state to elevate sage grouse management from Executive Order to statute when Nevada State Legislature approved the legislation on June 3, 2013.

The driving force behind the new law is BLM’s impending draft Environmental Impact Statement (estimated release date September 2013). BLM will provide alternatives for managing sage grouse to comply with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services’ (USFW&S) mandate for regulatory sufficiency. The Council’s first goal is to “Stop the Decline” — not an easy task. Last year 600,000 acres burned in Nevada; millions of acres are now “ cheat grass” deserts.

Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar suggested states provide an alternative in BLM’s EIS. Nevada and other western states might continue to manage sage grouse if their systems for management are sufficient. Nevada submitted a plan to BLM last July for inclusion in the EIS.

The spur to elevating sage grouse to the state level is that listing the sage grouse as threatened will impact economic interests. e
Earth Day in Reno. The highlight of the second quarter of 2013 was Earth Day, celebrated in Reno on Saturday, April 20. This year’s event seemed to be even larger than ever, an encouraging fact because we hear that many cities across the country have stopped celebrating Earth Day. Your Great Basin Group had a canopy in a prominent place and talked with many people throughout the beautiful day.

General Meeting programs. Our April program featured Gail Durham from the Nevada Division of Forestry. Gail spoke about the many insect pests affecting urban and country trees around the state. The pine bark beetle was featured due to its widespread effects, but she discussed many more destructive insects active throughout the state. The pine bark beetle has completely destroyed some sections of forest here and there, but it is not yet as widespread as in the Rockies.

Our May program was presented by world traveler Karin McCollum. Karin took us from arctic spaces to the tropical jungles, revealing a lot of courage in her mostly solo travels around the world and a knack for captivating photographs.

We take June, July, and August off from program meetings and hope to see our Sierra Club friends again on September 12. The presenter then will be Keoki Flagg, a world-class photographer from Lake Tahoe.

Celebrating Earth Day. Some of our Great Basin Group members have been making trips to Carson City for the biennial Nevada Legislature. Their support of various bills has augmented the work of Joe Johnson, our lobbyist.

Joe Johnson receives award. Congratulations to Joe on his award from the Nevada Conservation League, which was presented at a special reception in Carson City on April 25. Joe’s work on legislation important to the Sierra Club has been productive over many, many years.

The Great Basin Peaks Section finally got their t-shirts printed and ready to wear, plus have enjoyed new peak climbs and Nevada Wilderness Explorations. GBPS t-shirts are now available and information will be on our website soon. The shirts have our Wheeler Peak logo on front (compliments of Erik Holland) and the peak list on the back. (See page 9 for photo.)

2nd Annual Italian Night to Get Kids Outdoors!

July 20  •  6-9 pm  •  Galena Creek Park

Sierra Club believes in every child’s right to watch bugs, climb rocks, get muddy, and fall in love with nature! Save the date for the 2nd annual Great Basin Group’s summer social supporting Get Kids Outdoors adventures! ALL ARE WELCOME – families, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, and friends.

Come early and take a hike or try fishing! Bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic or beer/wine, but no hard liquor, please). Note: This is an eco-friendly event, so guests are asked to bring their own non-disposable dinnerware (plate, cup, utensils, etc.).

Contributions. A minimum donation of $10 per adult and $5 per child under 13 is requested. Contributions made by check are fully tax-deductible. Make checks payable to “Sierra Club Foundation” with the note “Toiyabe Chapter” on the memo line. Tax-deduction receipts will not be supplied for cash donations. During the past year, over 1000

The highlight of the second quarter of 2013 was Earth Day, celebrated in Reno on Saturday, April 20. This year’s event seemed to be even larger than ever, an encouraging fact because we hear that many cities across the country have stopped celebrating Earth Day. Your Great Basin Group had a canopy in a prominent place and talked with many people throughout the beautiful day.

General Meeting programs. Our April program featured Gail Durham from the Nevada Division of Forestry. Gail spoke about the many insect pests affecting urban and country trees around the state. The pine bark beetle was featured due to its widespread effects, but she discussed many more destructive insects active throughout the state. The pine bark beetle has completely destroyed some sections of forest here and there, but it is not yet as widespread as in the Rockies.

Our May program was presented by world traveler Karin McCollum. Karin took us from arctic spaces to the tropical jungles, revealing a lot of courage in her mostly solo travels around the world and a knack for captivating photographs.

We take June, July, and August off from program meetings and hope to see our Sierra Club friends again on September 12. The presenter then will be Keoki Flagg, a world-class photographer from Lake Tahoe.

Celebrating Earth Day. Some of our Great Basin Group members have been making trips to Carson City for the biennial Nevada Legislature. Their support of various bills has augmented the work of Joe Johnson, our lobbyist.

Joe Johnson receives award. Congratulations to Joe on his award from the Nevada Conservation League, which was presented at a special reception in Carson City on April 25. Joe’s work on legislation important to the Sierra Club has been productive over many, many years.

The Great Basin Peaks Section finally got their t-shirts printed and ready to wear, plus have enjoyed new peak climbs and Nevada Wilderness Explorations. GBPS t-shirts are now available and information will be on our website soon. The shirts have our Wheeler Peak logo on front (compliments of Erik Holland) and the peak list on the back. (See page 9 for photo.)

This year’s adventures started with a Gold Butte & Nevada Wilderness Exploration. We photographed endless fascinating formations and petroglyphs throughout the Gold Butte area agreeing that it was a true treasure for Nevada. Gold Butte is being considered for wilderness designation. You can take action to help by signing the petition at <www.nevadawilderness.org/takeaction>.

Our Southern Nevada Adventure took us up Spirit Mountain, McCullough Mountain, and Corkscrew Peak with a tour through Wee Thump Wilderness. The Joshua Trees in Wee Thump are the most amazing I’ve seen in both size and the display of their beautiful blooms.

This spring members also hiked Tule, Tohakum, Joah, and King Lear Peaks. The views and feeling of solitude experienced on all great basin peaks never disappoints. A note on Tohakum Peak in the Lake Range—be prepared for a tick fest!

Our next outings in June are an overnight trip to Mount Augusta and the Spring Mountain Adventure to include Grapevine Peak, Mammy Mountain, and Harris Mountain. The GBPS will celebrate 4 years in July with a potluck and Outdoor Gear Sale & Exchange.

Join us! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html>.


Great Basin Group

OFFICERS

Chair  David von Segger  775-359-8465
Vice-Chair  Valerie Anderson  775-835-4769
Secretary  Sue Jasen  775-699-1890
Treasurer  Martin Maxa  775-666-2973
Conservation  Jan Hamley*  775-348-8047
Distribution  Craig Martin  775-319-8422
Energy  Jeff Hancock  775-666-2876
Membership  Graham Stafford  775-666-8427
Outings  Holly Coughlin  775-395-2489
Political  Open
Programs  Valencia Anderson*  775-835-4769
Webmaster  Peter Johnson  775-359-3176

* ExCom member
JULY 18 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

JULY 25 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

JULY 27 (SATURDAY) 8A
Jamison Lake. Hike from Jamison Mine area out-side Graeagle to Jamison Lake. Learn about old mining operation. Views of waterfall, meadows, lakes, creek crossings along way. Swimming during lunch at Jamison Lake and traditional ice cream stop after hike are both likely. About 7 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL: Leader: Craig Mastos (775-248-1862, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

AUGUST 1 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

AUGUST 3 (SATURDAY) 8A
Elephant’s Back Day Hike. Elephant’s Back is at Carson Pass off Hwy 88. Visit Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top Lakes. Scale Elephant’s Back, enjoy sweeping views of high Sierra. Possibly return by Woods Lake, including hiking part of eminent wagon train route. Wild flowers should be in full display. Learn about history of area. About 9.5 mi, some off-trail; 1700 ft gain for day. ND: Leader: T A Tar (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

ITALIAN NIGHT FOR KIDS ...
... continued from page 8
children, many from low-income neighborhoods, participated in activities facilitated by local outdoor schools and supported by local donations – including our Great Basin Group’s support for last summer’s event. We need your support to Get Kids Outdoors!

SILENT AUCTION donations. Contact Sue (775-345-1900, saues@nvbell.net).

Directions. Seven miles up Mt. Rose Highway from 395, enter at “Galena Creek Park South Entrance” sign for old fish hatchery building above Marilyn’s Pond. Consider carpooling due to limited parking.

Let us know you’re there. Please RSVP for food planning: Holly (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net) or Katy (702-755-2267, mabelnvl@hotmail.com).

AUGUST 8 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

AUGUST 9-11 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA
Perseid Meteor Show in Black Rock Campout. Camp in Mid-Playa to watch this year’s Perseid Meteor shower. Portapotty provided, Potluck/barbecue likely Saturday night! One of best meteor showers of year, because new moon is on 8-6-13, skies will be really good! Side trips to nearby area hot springs likely, right on Emigrant Trail! Meet up Friday, head out. RVs and trailers OK to camping spot; high clearance 2WD or carpool for side trips. Dogs OK, but not prepared to pick up after them and keep on leash. Do you have a ham radio? Bring one to use with two area repeaters! FRs/CB radios helpful but not necessary. Leader very familiar with area! DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

AUGUST 10 (SATURDAY) 8A
**General Program Meetings**

**July 8 and September 9, 2013**

These interesting and entertaining meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month. They are also at the Sierra Club office (see above for details of location), unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join us on July 8 and September 9 (dark in August). See below for program details and times. All welcome!

All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

**JULY 8 (MONDAY)**

The Truth About Trapping. Many people are astounded to learn trapping persists in the 21st century. Find out the facts from Sierra Club member and Sparks resident Trish Swain, Coordinator of Trail Safe Nevada, a grassroots citizen network focused on the trapping issue. Trapping affects public safety and land use as well as humane treatment of wild animals. Trish’s presentation will cover some basics of Nevada trapping, National Sierra Club policy opposing trapping, keeping trails safe for people and pets, and ways Sierra Club members can be involved. This will not be disturbingly gory. The case for trap regulation can be made without subjecting an audience to horrifying images. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

**JULY 14 (SUNDAY)**

Rain Tree & Mummy Springs, SMNRA. From North Loop Trailhead, track up to tree, wander over to lush greenery supported by spring. Where are bristles on a bristlecone pine? About 6 mi RT, 1700 ft gain, 8400 ft to 10,100 ft Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3–4.

**JULY 20 (SATURDAY)**

South Sister, Lee Canyon, SMNRA. At summit you’ll be blown away with a spectacular 360 degree view of Lee Canyon and area. About 6 mi RT; 1100 ft gain. How far and which direction is Yucca Mountain? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4–5.

**JULY 27 (SATURDAY)**

Fletcher Peak, SMNRA. Dress properly for weather. We can always get rain in these mountains. Why do big mountains create their own weather patterns? About 8 mi from 8200-10,000 ft Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3–4.

**AUGUST 10 (SATURDAY)**

Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon, SMNRA. Bring your head lamps for under aspens. We’ll see more stars than twinkling lights and look for owls. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2–3.

**AUGUST 12 (MONDAY)**

No General Program Meeting (“dark”).

**AUGUST 17 (SATURDAY)**

“Almost” Full Moon Hike to Cathedral Rock, SMNRA. You may have done this one in daytime; now join us on this popular hike overlooking lodge and twinkling lights of Kyle Canyon. About 3 mi RT; 1000 ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2.

**AUGUST 25 (SUNDAY)**

Stanley B. Springs, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA. Columbine, wild rose, Englemann spruce, healthy ponderosa pines in stream area, lots of shade from mountain mahogany on way up, always make this canyon a pleasure. About 3 mi. Topping ridge, another mile to make loop from about 7200-8400 ft. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2–3.

**SEPTEMBER 8 (SUNDAY)**

Griffith Peak via Harris Spring Road, SMNRA. Should see some early fall color along 9 mi RT with gain of 3400 ft from 7600-11,000 ft. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4–5.

**SEPTEMBER 9 (MONDAY)**

General Program Meeting: It’s Fall & Hiking Season Is Back! We are pleased to welcome Rae Lathrop and Mauricia Baca of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, who will give Sierra Club members and friends a presentation on “The Current & Future State of the Trail System in Southern Nevada.” Since 2000, OLVF has been helping forge connections between the local community and our spectacular public lands, arranging corporate adoption of trails, conducting public workshops and organizing clean-up projects. Let’s learn more about the Foundation’s “Neon to Nature” project and their involvement in the

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.
sight Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys. Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

SEPTEMBER 28 (SUNDAY) White Rock Loop: Red Rock Canyon. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise - splendid views while we lunch. Is there any visible disturbance to valley behind White Rock Mountain? Whose cabin slabs were these? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

GOVERNOR SAYS NO... continued from page 6

Catch Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys.

Goshute Tribal leader, Rupert Steele, said the proposal (1) ignored pumping impacts to tribal waters and (2) had inadequate monitoring and mitigation provisions for adverse pumping impacts.

Delay not a bad thing. Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network said the delay would provide some breathing room for both states to re-consider options to the proposed agreement.

Options left to Nevada include a lawsuit against Utah for not signing the draft agreement. But legal experts questioned whether the Congress can force states to negotiate or even intended to do so in the Lincoln County Lands Act, or simply withheld the federal right-of-way if the states could not agree.

A draft agreement reached four years ago through secret negotiations was quickly signed by Nevada officials at that time, but it had not won the Utah governor’s approval. That proposal declared 132,000 acre feet of groundwater was available for extraction, but critics assert this amount is a political fiction which does not pass the straight face test.

More cost-effective approaches available. SNWA continues to resist more cost-effective approaches, including: (1) increasing water efficiency, (2) obtaining additional water from desalination or other Colorado River supplies, and (3) supporting re-opening the Colorado River Compact, a 91-year-old deal which originally overcommitted the River’s water among the seven upper and lower basin states.

SEPTEMBER 21 (SATURDAY) Old Bristlecone Trail, SMNRA. Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

SEPTEMBER 22 (SUNDAY) Toiyabe Trails

100-mile Vegas Valley Rim Trail. Light refreshments will be served. Taj Ainaly (682-9361).

SEPTEMBER 21 (SATURDAY) Old Bristlecone Trail, SMNRA. Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

SEPTEMBER 28 (SUNDAY) White Rock Loop: Red Rock Canyon. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise - splendid views while we lunch. Is there any visible disturbance to valley behind White Rock Mountain? Whose cabin slabs were these? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

GOVERNOR SAYS NO... continued from page 6

Catch Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys.

Goshute Tribal leader, Rupert Steele, said the proposal (1) ignored pumping impacts to tribal waters and (2) had inadequate monitoring and mitigation provisions for adverse pumping impacts.

Delay not a bad thing. Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network said the delay would provide some breathing room for both states to re-consider options to the proposed agreement.

Options left to Nevada include a lawsuit against Utah for not signing the draft agreement. But legal experts questioned whether the Congress can force states to negotiate or even intended to do so in the Lincoln County Lands Act, or simply withheld the federal right-of-way if the states could not agree.

A draft agreement reached four years ago through secret negotiations was quickly signed by Nevada officials at that time, but it had not won the Utah governor’s approval. That proposal declared 132,000 acre feet of groundwater was available for extraction, but critics assert this amount is a political fiction which does not pass the straight face test.

More cost-effective approaches available. SNWA continues to resist more cost-effective approaches, including: (1) increasing water efficiency, (2) obtaining additional water from desalination or other Colorado River supplies, and (3) supporting re-opening the Colorado River Compact, a 91-year-old deal which originally overcommitted the River’s water among the seven upper and lower basin states.

SEPTEMBER 21 (SATURDAY) Old Bristlecone Trail, SMNRA. Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

SEPTEMBER 28 (SUNDAY) White Rock Loop: Red Rock Canyon. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise - splendid views while we lunch. Is there any visible disturbance to valley behind White Rock Mountain? Whose cabin slabs were these? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

GOVERNOR SAYS NO... continued from page 6

Catch Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys.

Goshute Tribal leader, Rupert Steele, said the proposal (1) ignored pumping impacts to tribal waters and (2) had inadequate monitoring and mitigation provisions for adverse pumping impacts.

Delay not a bad thing. Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network said the delay would provide some breathing room for both states to re-consider options to the proposed agreement.

Options left to Nevada include a lawsuit against Utah for not signing the draft agreement. But legal experts questioned whether the Congress can force states to negotiate or even intended to do so in the Lincoln County Lands Act, or simply withheld the federal right-of-way if the states could not agree.

A draft agreement reached four years ago through secret negotiations was quickly signed by Nevada officials at that time, but it had not won the Utah governor’s approval. That proposal declared 132,000 acre feet of groundwater was available for extraction, but critics assert this amount is a political fiction which does not pass the straight face test.

More cost-effective approaches available. SNWA continues to resist more cost-effective approaches, including: (1) increasing water efficiency, (2) obtaining additional water from desalination or other Colorado River supplies, and (3) supporting re-opening the Colorado River Compact, a 91-year-old deal which originally overcommitted the River’s water among the seven upper and lower basin states.

SEPTEMBER 21 (SATURDAY) Old Bristlecone Trail, SMNRA. Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

SEPTEMBER 28 (SUNDAY) White Rock Loop: Red Rock Canyon. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise - splendid views while we lunch. Is there any visible disturbance to valley behind White Rock Mountain? Whose cabin slabs were these? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

GOVERNOR SAYS NO... continued from page 6

Catch Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys.

Goshute Tribal leader, Rupert Steele, said the proposal (1) ignored pumping impacts to tribal waters and (2) had inadequate monitoring and mitigation provisions for adverse pumping impacts.

Delay not a bad thing. Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network said the delay would provide some breathing room for both states to re-consider options to the proposed agreement.

Options left to Nevada include a lawsuit against Utah for not signing the draft agreement. But legal experts questioned whether the Congress can force states to negotiate or even intended to do so in the Lincoln County Lands Act, or simply withheld the federal right-of-way if the states could not agree.

A draft agreement reached four years ago through secret negotiations was quickly signed by Nevada officials at that time, but it had not won the Utah governor’s approval. That proposal declared 132,000 acre feet of groundwater was available for extraction, but critics assert this amount is a political fiction which does not pass the straight face test.

More cost-effective approaches available. SNWA continues to resist more cost-effective approaches, including: (1) increasing water efficiency, (2) obtaining additional water from desalination or other Colorado River supplies, and (3) supporting re-opening the Colorado River Compact, a 91-year-old deal which originally overcommitted the River’s water among the seven upper and lower basin states.
Melanie Challenger’s first prose book is a wonderful read. Let me begin by saying what it is not. It is not a strident siren song calling for action on the issue of species extinctions and not an objective or coherently crafted argument for reevaluating humans’ interaction with nature. In comparison with, say, Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring,” it is only a soft brush of reality.

The subtitle is not effectively described or argued at all. Yet the author manages to make the point in a remarkably compelling manner, and the overall effect is soul chilling. She treats not just species extinctions, but extinctions of languages, of cultures, of industries, and of livelihoods. She does this by probing deeply into her own past experiences, beginning with her youthful forays in Cornwall and continuing to her recent excursions to the polar regions. Along with that, she seamlessly weaves in observations and thoughts of innumerable past authors, from the ancient Greeks to the writers of recent decades.

Clearly the author is well read, and she easily draws on contributions of others even though she herself seems to see things with a thousand pairs of eyes. The early chapters are narrative, often in a seemingly florid prose which may not appeal to all – consider, for example: “Mists moved against the still hedges, slow forces in the hollows of the whaling industry in the southern ocean, and finally into the native people’s lands in far northern Canada.”

Along the way, we are presented with the parallel between humans’ extinction of species, culture, and languages – even, sometimes, our own. Although our estrangement from nature is not directly argued or treated, it is revealed by example. Whether Challenger thinks this is a good or bad development is not clear from this book. Even when humans were well connected to nature, it seems they had a poor record on species preservation.

Perhaps our estrangement from nature will give us a perspective allowing us to take effective action to promote the cultural change necessary to arresting extinctions. In the author’s extinction narrative, she often mentions the nostalgia humans feel for things lost and destroyed. For this reviewer, a true nostalgia came with the first reading of Challenger’s book in the cold, gray days of December. — David von Seggern

**50TH ANNIVERSARIES...**

Continued from page 6

The Civil Rights Act in 2014. Wilderness had been the top priority of the Sierra Club since its founding by John Muir. Because of the Club’s recent emphasis on environmental justice, it is appropriate that we also celebrate the Civil Rights Act.

**PROCLAMATION**

White House, January 1, 1964, marked the beginning of one of the most important and eventful years in the later history of the United States, a time when Americans worked hard to come together and make the positive changes envisioned by a President we had lost just 40 days earlier, with the tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy; and Whereas, A national purpose emerged in 1964 as our population, particularly our younger citizens, realized that America was not Camelot and the changes and redress that were needed required the work and support of all of us, and not just our elected leaders; and Whereas, The American people and the leaders of our democracy focused on one of the most important issues of the day such as racial equality, environmental protection, and national security; and Whereas, Following many years of segregation, voter suppression, and private acts of violence, all of which deprived the citizens of the United States of equal political rights and cultural identity, these issues were treated, it is revealed by example. Whether Challenger thinks this is a good or bad development is not clear from this book. Even when humans were well connected to nature, it seems they had a poor record on species preservation.

Perhaps our estrangement from nature will give us a perspective allowing us to take effective action to promote the cultural change necessary to arresting extinctions. In the author’s extinction narrative, she often mentions the nostalgia humans feel for things lost and destroyed. For this reviewer, a true nostalgia came with the first reading of Challenger’s book in the cold, gray days of December. — David von Seggern

**THREATS TO NEVADA SPECIES...**

Continued from page 11

Wildlife Service (FWS) states that in 2008, just over 1000 individuals were counted in the Flag Spring – Sunnyside Creek system, their only remaining habitat. This was once a member of an interconnected suite of similar species inhabiting the Pleistocene White River, which exists today only as a series of isolated springs and intermittent streams. The FWS gives the flagpyrg a “2C” endangerment rating, among the highest of any species in Nevada, and they specifically cite development of ground and surface water in the habitat area as a significant threat. As with the flag pyrg, the impacts on spring flow, temperature, and chemistry from the SNWA project could easily send this imperiled species to extinction.

END OF PART I

Rob Mroska is an ecologist employed by the Center for Biological Diversity, and serves as the Center’s Nevada Conservation Advocate. Mroska was previously employed with the U.S. Forest Service, and later served as the Environmental Planning Manager for Nevada’s Clark County. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Great Basin Water Network. He kindly gave permission for the Trails to use this article, which first appeared in the Desert Report’s June 2013 issue. Desert Report is a publication of Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Desert Committee.